

sibility as well as lowering the voting age, they turned it down, nine to seven they voted against lowering the age of adult responsibility. This I do not understand.

If we are going to say the youth of today are mature enough to vote, to receive the most sacred privilege we can give them, then they are mature enough to accept all responsibilities.

Another argument that was presented in the Committee Memorandum was that we must permit youth to participate in government earlier.

I would like to speak to this because, as you have heard, the majority of the testimony came from students in universities and colleges, and from educators. The testimony was that if they were given the right to vote earlier, they would participate in government and therefore be more interested.

The natural question that I asked was: do you have student government today at your schools, and of course, the reply was yes.

What is the student turn-out in your student government? Less than 15 percent. This is the training for participation in the community. This training-ground argument is not new with our Committee Report. This training-ground has been alluded to just recently by Dr. Lincoln Gordon when he stated that the universities must learn to participate in the community and the government.

The ballot box is not a training-ground for participation in government.

The ballot box is vital for each of us, but we are not going to train them by permitting them to vote. We are going to train them first by letting them learn that they must participate and by showing them the responsibility that they wish to have, but it is only one area.

It was very interesting to us when we asked these students about the poll that they had taken—

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin, you have a little less than one minute.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Thank you.

It concerned how many of them felt that it was vital to them to vote, and if they began voting would this establish a habit? They were not certain that they really would participate if given this right to vote, and the testimony that we have from

the adults who advocate lowering the voting age agrees that there is no evidence that they will vote if given the right to, because it is not that dear to them.

I suggest we think this over carefully and I would also like to mention again the four states that have lowered the voting age, Alaska, Hawaii, Kentucky and Georgia.

Think about this, it is not a light game.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: I would like to yield three minutes to Delegate Schloeder.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee: As a teacher and as one having had a great deal of experience with people of this age, nineteen, twenty, and eighteen, it is very difficult for me not to have developed over the fifteen years that I have had this experience a deep respect for, and belief in their ability to bear problems and decisions responsibly.

It is my sincere belief from my experience that from involvement comes responsibility, and I think that what we do here is to provide an opportunity for nineteen-year-olds and twenty-year-olds to become involved in the problems that face us today.

And I think that with this involvement, they would show themselves to act and behave in a very responsible manner. I think that many of this age, eighteen, nineteen, or twenty, have a feeling of being in limbo. They would like very much to become a part of the social, economic, and political structure of our society, and I think that if they were to become a part of that political structure in that they were allowed to vote and participate actively in a democracy, they would participate fully and responsibly.

A great deal will be said about maturity and I will submit to you that an indication of maturity is the ability to accept responsibility. I think that those of this age are able to accept responsibility, and thus are able to show their maturity.

I would like to give two examples, one is this: in figures presented by the United States Census Bureau, approximately twenty percent of the nineteen and twenty year olds in this State are full-time wage earners.

Also you will hear before this debate is over, I am sure, the phrase that "if you